

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
May 22, 2017

Mayor Paul M. Shapiro called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Raymond, Ryan, Sargent, Shaiken, Shapiro
Excused: Keane, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Once a quorum was attained, Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shaiken seconded to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs

The Town Clerk read the legal notice.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, voiced his opposition to the tax credits and proposed projects.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed opposition to the proposed tax credits and asked that the Council refrain from voting on the projects application until additional information has been provided.

Brian Coleman, Center Street, voiced his opposition to state funding for such projects and questioned the intended use of the harvested water.

Mayor Shapiro closed the public hearing.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

David Nelson, Fort Griswold Lane, spoke in representation of the North East Connecticut Citizen Climate Action Lobby and requested the Council issue a resolution requesting the Governor to institute a carbon fee and dividend program.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, submitted questions to the Council and Town Manager regarding the required qualifications and selection process for the recent Town Clerk vacancy.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, stated his opposition to the Settlement of the Storrs Center Phase II Tax Appeal and urged the Council to take the matter to court.

Brian Coleman, Center Street, voiced his disappointment with the ad hoc Committee on Rental Regulations and Enforcement for not considering more seriously his recommendations for landlord incentives. Mr. Coleman also shared his dissatisfaction with the town's bulky waste fees.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager offered the following comments:

Mr. Hart responded to questions regarding the Town Clerk recruitment by providing the qualifications noted in the job ad and stated that the remaining questions will be answered in his next Town Manager's report.

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VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Shaiken, Mayor Shapiro confirmed that UCONN did not give the Town advance notice of their RFP for a new hotel at the last Town-University Relations Committee Meeting.

Mayor Shapiro requested members of the Council join him at Mansfield's Memorial Day event.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to table the resolution regarding Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs to the Council's next regular meeting on June 12, 2017. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Shaiken who abstained.

3. Settlement of Storrs Center Phase II Tax Appeal

Town Attorney Kevin Deneen provided background regarding the proposed settlement and corrections made to the Stipulation for Judgement.

Mr. Sargent moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective May 22, 2017, to approve the negotiated pre-trial settlements for the Leyland Storrs LL, LLC tax appeals.

Councilors discussed the merits of the settlement and the Town Attorney further explained the reasons for and process behind the proposed settlement. Mr. Hart clarified that the tax break is on retail space not the residential portion of the development.

Council agreed by consensus to a technical amendment changing "Leyland Storrs LL" to "Leyland Storrs II" in the proposed motion.

Motion on the floor now reads:

Move, effective May 22, 2017, to approve the negotiated pre-trial settlements for the Leyland Storrs II, LLC tax appeals.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Proposed Amendments to the Mansfield Housing Code

Given the absence of the Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee chair, Mr. Shaiken moved and Mr. Sargent seconded to table the Proposed Amendments to the Mansfield Housing Code to the June 26, 2017 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Graduate Student Presentations

Graduate student intern Emily Wilson gave a brief presentation reviewing the many projects worked on in the Town Manager's Office during her internship including the selection and implementation of new recruitment software.

Mayor Shapiro thanked Ms. Wilson for her excellent work and wished her well in her future endeavors.

6. Proclamation in Recognition of Mary Stanton

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Sargent seconded to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Recognition of Mary L. Stanton.

Mr. Ryan read aloud the proclamation and Mr. Shapiro expressed his heartfelt gratitude for Ms. Stanton's years of professionalism and dedicated service to the Town.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Special Fare Agreement with Windham Regional Transit District for FY 2017/18

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Windham Transit District to provide a Special Fare Program for qualifying Mansfield residents for FY 2017/18.

Mr. Hart provided background information regarding the Special Fare Agreement with WRTD namely the decision to have UConn and the Town execute separate agreements with WRTD. Director of Human Services Pat Schneider clarified the bus fare rate change as it applies to seniors in response to an inquiry posed by Mr. Shaiken. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Appointment of Subregistrars

Mr. Shaiken moved and Mr. Ryan seconded effective, May 27, 2017, to appoint Glenn Robert Blumenstein of Potter Funeral Home and Phillip M. Pietras of the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home as Subregistrars for the Town of Mansfield.

Mr. Sargent proposed a friendly amendment to change the date in the motion from "May 27, 2017" to "May 22, 2017". Ms. Stanton explained the May 27, 2017 date was selected to match the appointment date of the new Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Shaiken, member of Committee on Committees, recommended the appointment of Mayor Paul M Shapiro to the Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors for a term ending May 22, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shaiken also presented a letter drafted by the Committee on Committees under the cover of Mayor Shapiro. The letter encourages town boards and commissions to follow the lead of the Council and reduce the amount of paper used in the process of conducting their business. Mayor Shapiro thanked the Committee for their work on the letter and the Council agreed by consensus to distribute it with the signature of the Mayor.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 9. D. Fresk (05/05/17)
- 10. J. Carrington re: De-icing Products
- 11. C. Vincente re: Dog Park Proposal
- 12. State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management re: 2015 ENGL
- 13. Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

No items added.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shaiken moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul M. Shapiro, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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